

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **LAKE CHARLES MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

### *Federal Prosecutors cracking down on child predators*

LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that **EDWARD LEE DAUGHENBAUGH**, age 39, from Lake Charles, Louisiana, pleaded guilty in federal court before United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi to a Bill of Information charging him with possession of child pornography.

DAUGHENBAUGH's plea is the result of investigations conducted by the Lake Charles Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs enforcement into child pornography being received and sent via internet.

In pleading guilty today, DAUGHENBAUGH admits to downloading between 7,000 and 8,000 child pornography images from the internet. The images included sadistic material, in which prepubescent children were being sexually assaulted by adults. DAUGHENBAUGH admitted he had been downloading

child pornography for the last thirteen years. Federal agents seized DAUGHENBAUGH's computer on May 19, 2006.

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative announced by the United States Department of Justice in February 2006. The initiative is designed to protect our children from child predators. Under this initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies join together to investigate and prosecute crimes against children facilitated through the Internet or other electronic media and communications devices and to obtain the strictest penalties available under state or federal law.

Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date to be determined by the court. DAUGHENBAUGH faces a maximum of ten years federal imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$250,000, and a life term of supervised release.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission may only be used as guidelines by the judge. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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